

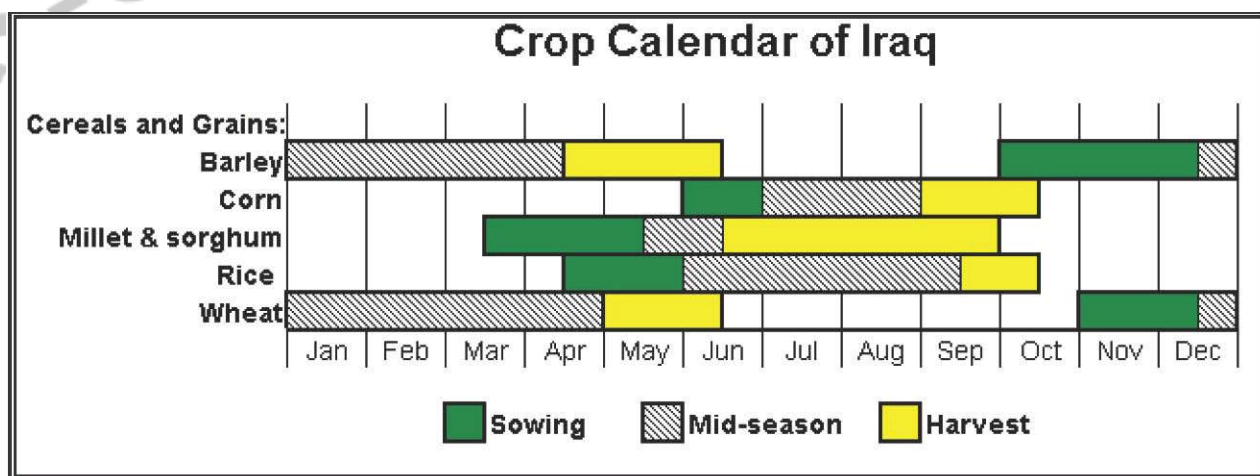
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International Operational Agriculture Monitoring Program



September Report – Week 1

September 5th, 2008

1. Production for MY 2008/09 winter grains is forecasted to be lower than the previous year. Production decreases are related to late rainfall during the start of season combined with below normal seasonal precipitation. The predominantly rainfed northern governorates were impacted the most. Lower production is also expected in the central and southern governorates.
2. Production for 2008 summer crops is forecasted to be lower than the previous year. This is supported by MODIS NDVI time-series data (Figure 1), NDVI change analysis (Figure 2), and reported water shortages affecting irrigated crop (Figures 3). The governorates experiencing large decreases in production in comparison to the previous year are At Ta'min, Diyala, Salah ad Din, and Al Anbar.
3. AFWA weather data from August 21st, 2008 to August 31st, 2008 showed that the northern governorates near the border of Turkey and Iran received up to 10mm of precipitation (Figure 4). Temperatures for the central and southern governorates remain well above normal. This information corresponds with the U.S. Army ERDC Euphrates/Tigris River Watershed Assessment. The assessment for August 22nd, 2008 stated that precipitation activity was experienced in the highest regions of southeastern Turkey with 15mm to 25mm of rain. Temperatures are expected to be higher than normal for the next two weeks.
4. AWiFS image classification resulted in a planted area estimate of 57,200 hectares in the regions of An Najaf and Al Qadisiyah (Figure 5).



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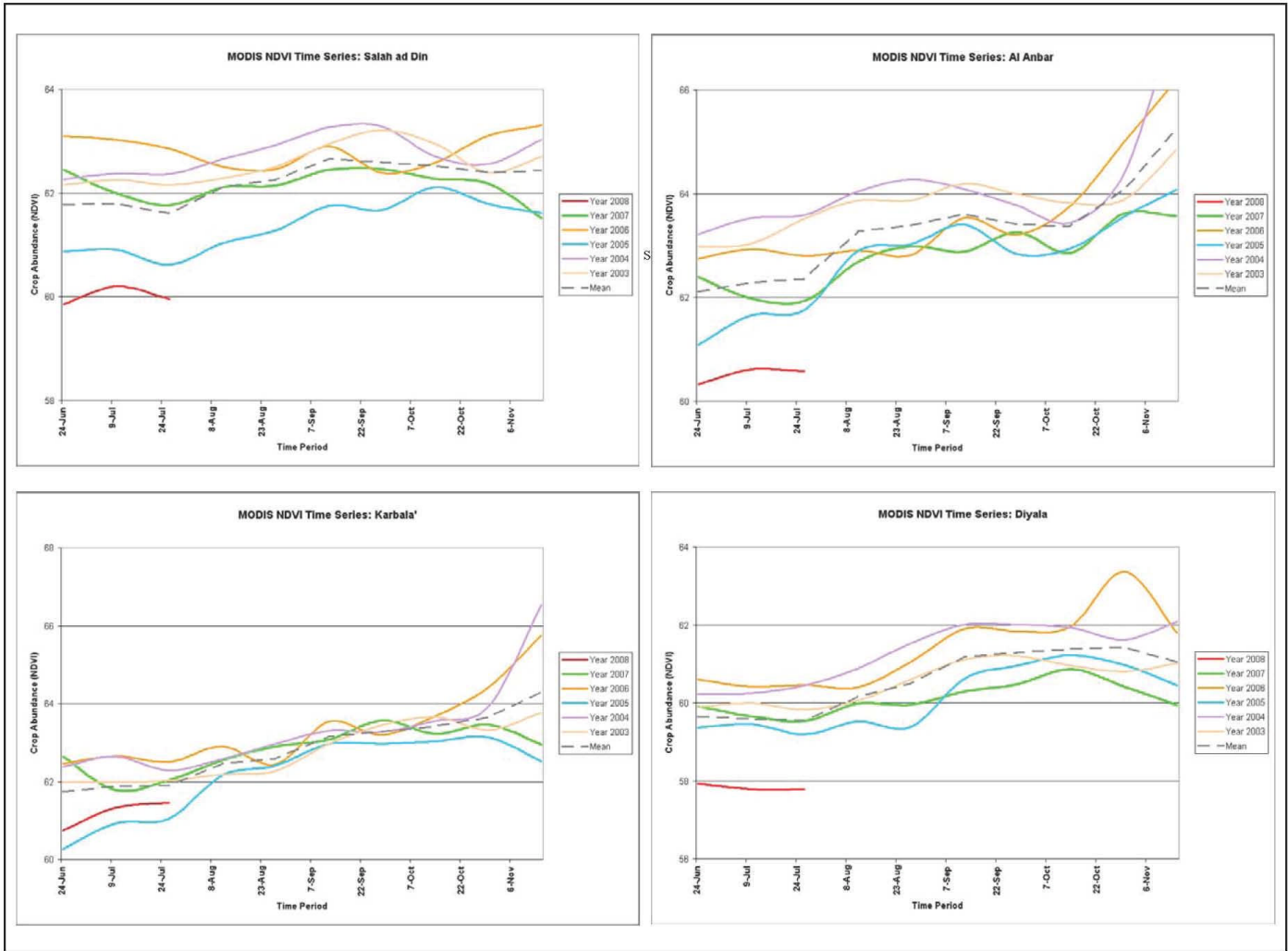


Figure 1: NDVI time series data for southern Iraq: Summer crop season, 2003 to 2008.

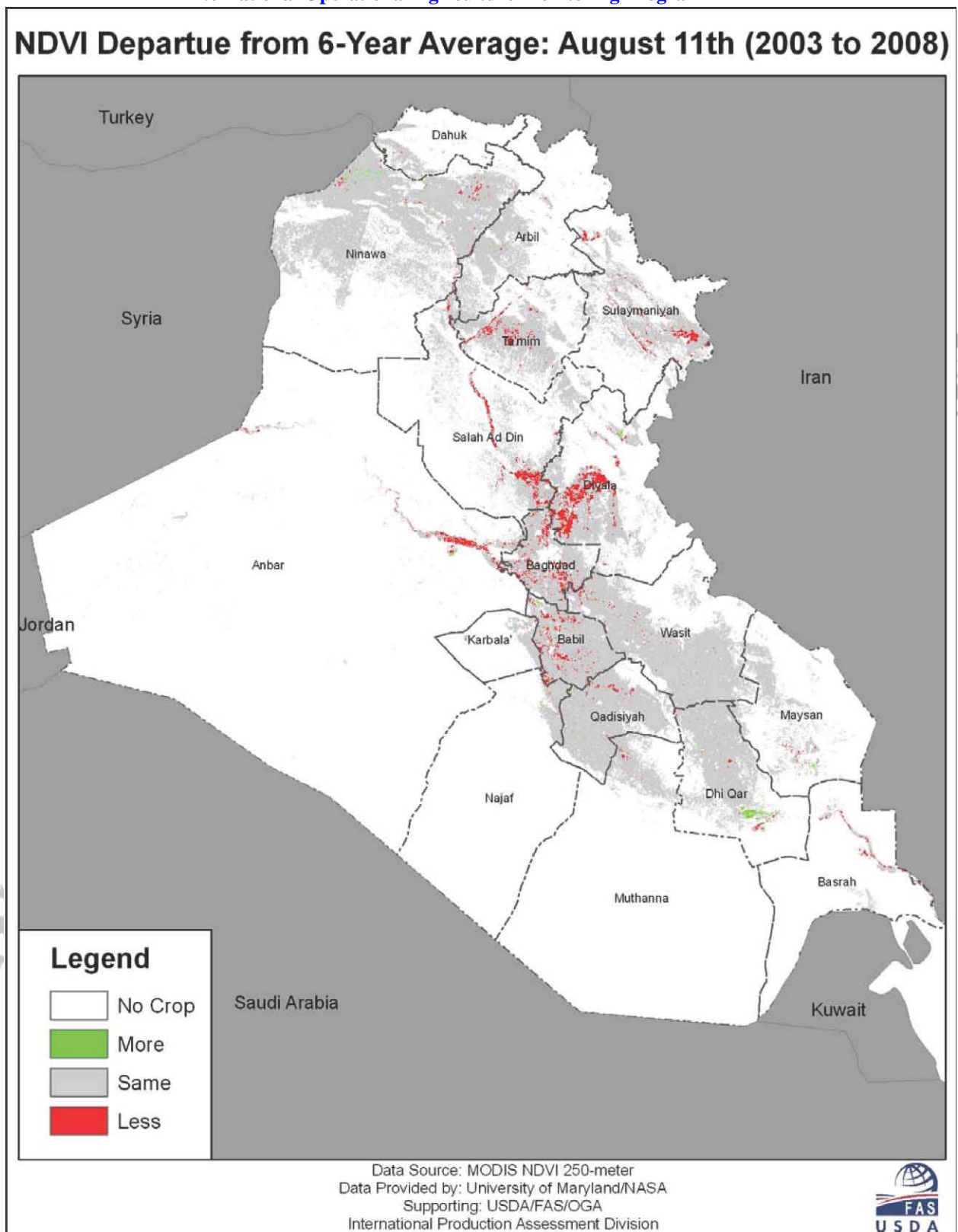


Figure 2: MODIS NDVI Comparison: August 11th (2003 to 2008).

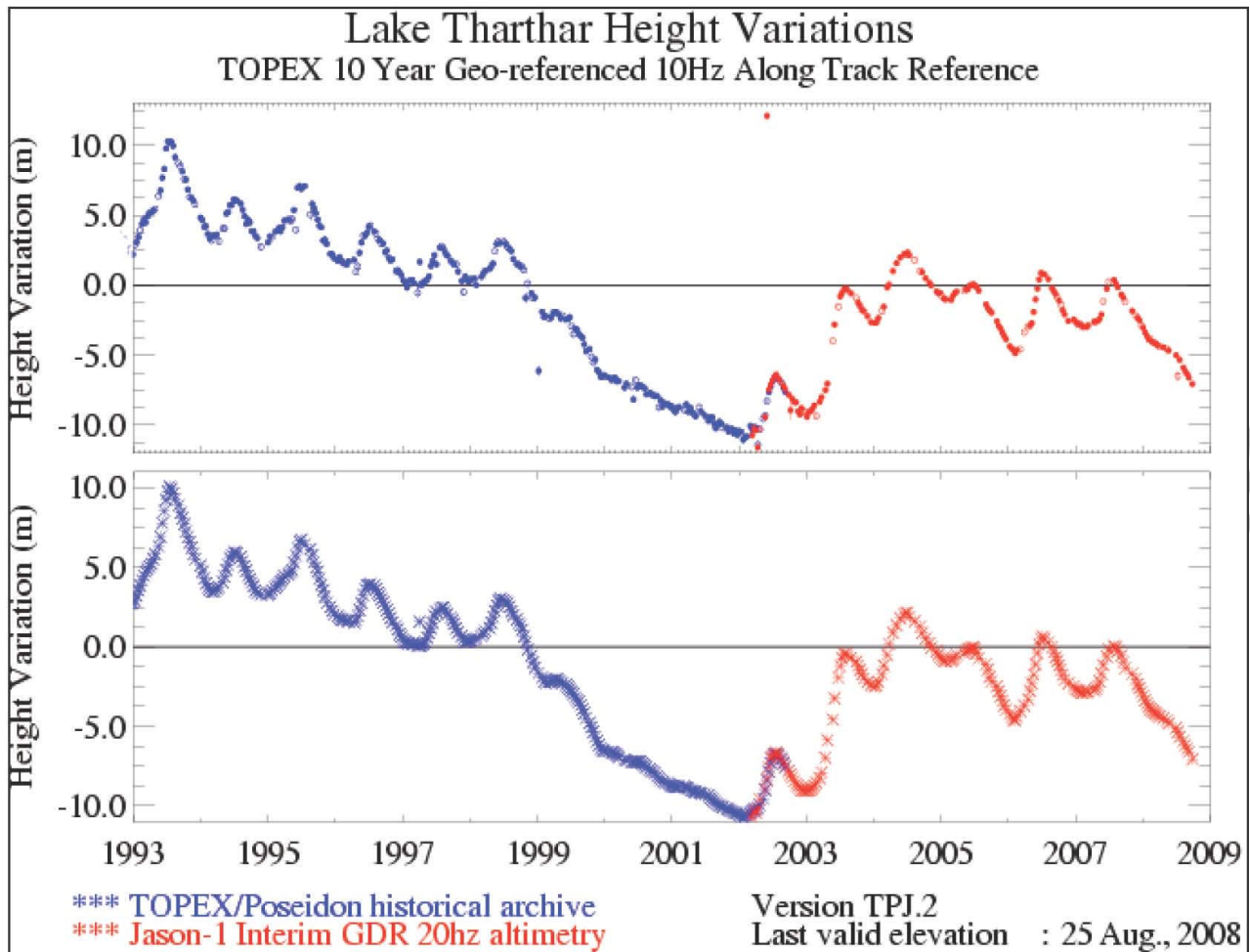


Figure 3: Altimeter measurements show a 5-year low in water height for Buhayrat Tharthar.

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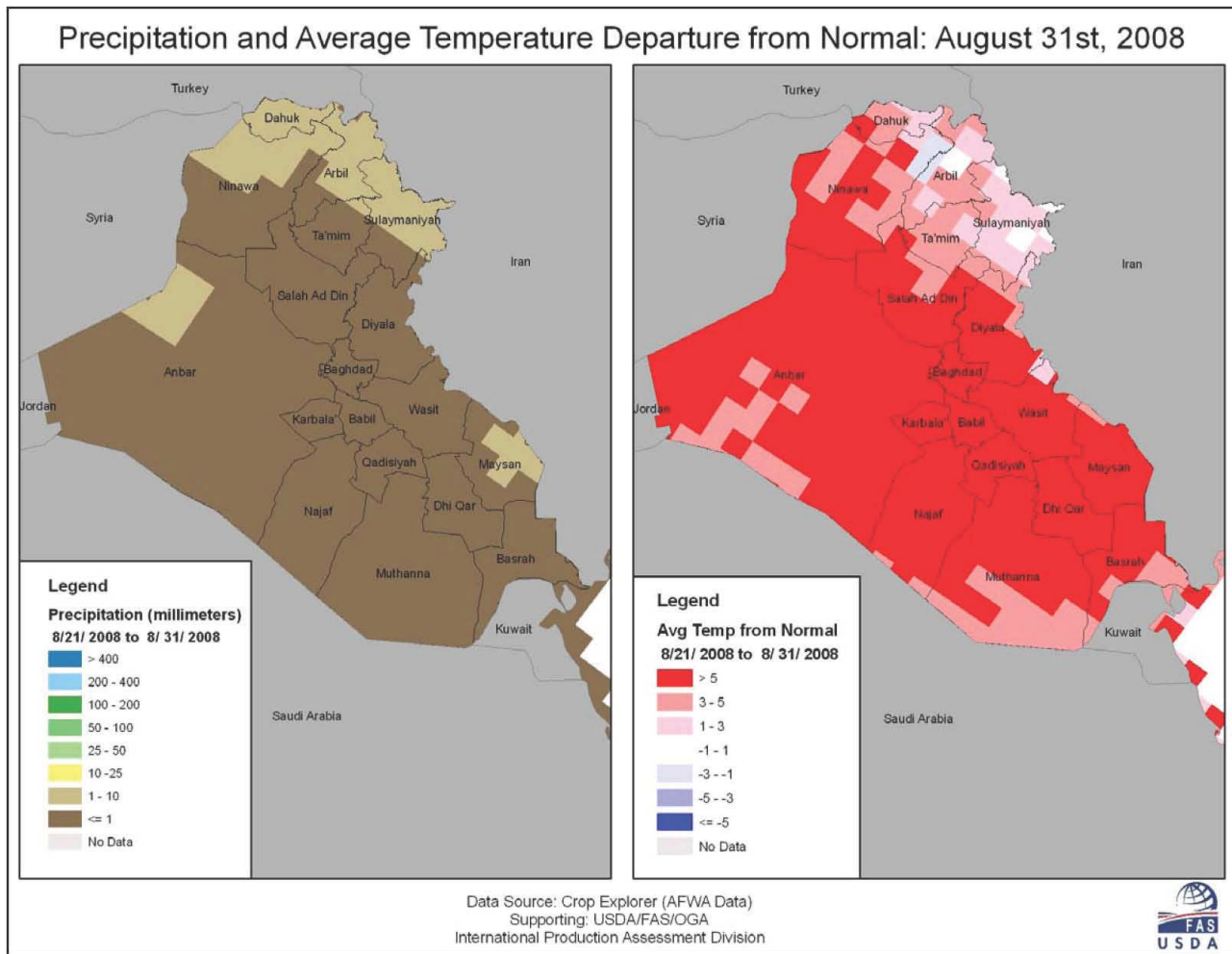


Figure 4: Precipitation and average temperature departures from normal: August 21st, 2008 to August 31st, 2008.

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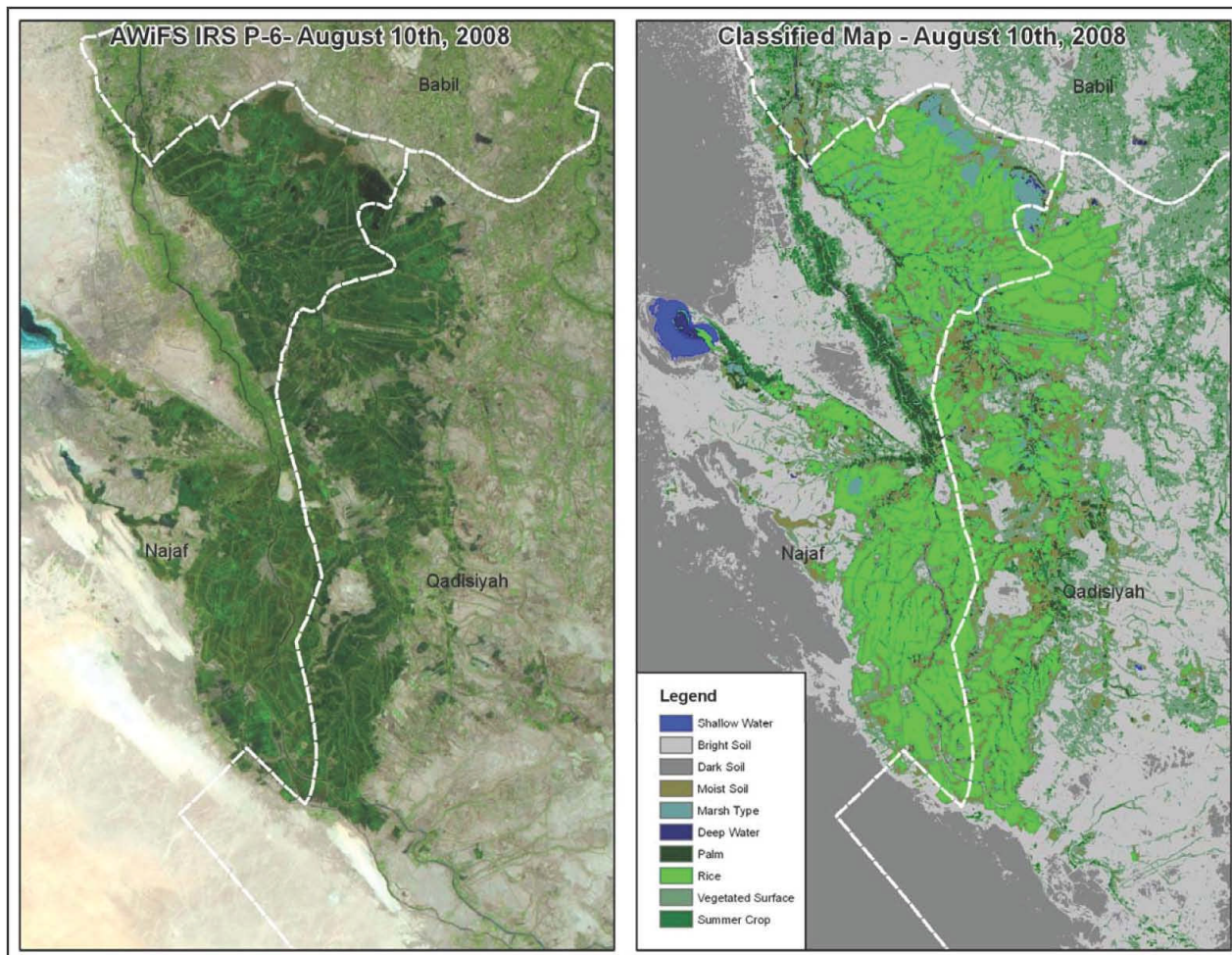


Figure 5: Classified AWiFS image showing the rice crop of An Najaf and Al Qadisiyah as of August 10th, 2008.